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ALBINISM IN AMERICAN BULLFROG (*RANA CATESBEIANA*) TADPOLES FROM VIRGINIA—

Albino *Rana catesbeiana* adults and tadpoles have been reported from a number of locations throughout its wide range in North America, including Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania in the East (Hensley, 1959; Dykarcz, 1981). Regionally, albino tadpoles and metamorphs (complete loss of dark pigment, including in the eyes) have been reported from near Baltimore, Maryland (Harris, 1968). Albinistic or leucistic (total loss of body pigment but with normally pigmented eyes) late stage *Rana catesbeiana* tadpoles were collected from the Blackwater River in Franklin County and from Big Reed Island Creek in Carroll County, Virginia on 17 May 1931 (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology 70387 and 70390; J. C. Mitchell and C. A. Pague, pers. obs.). We are not aware of any other documented albinistic tadpoles of this species. Thus, in this note, we describe true albino American Bullfrog tadpoles from a mountain pond in Virginia.

On 21 May 2004 one of us (LM) collected two large (Stage 36-38, Gosner, 1960), completely albinistic *R. catesbeiana* tadpoles (Fig. 1) on Massanutten Mountain, 3.4 km N New Market Gap, Page County, Virginia (38° 40' 13.6" N, 78° 35' 43.9" W). Neither had dark body pigment and both had pink eyes. They were captured in a shallow pool adjacent to the upper reach of Passage Creek at an elevation of about 670 m (2200') on U.S. Forest Service Road 274. Numerous other tadpoles with normal pigmentation and pattern were in the sample observed. This observation

represents the first record of true albinistic American Bullfrog tadpoles for a montane site in Virginia and the first reported for Page County. The tadpoles were released after photographs were taken.

LITERATURE CITED

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Fig. 1. Upper: normally-patterned and colored *Rana catesbeiana* tadpole from Massanutten Mountain, Page County, Virginia; Lower: albino *R. catesbeiana* tadpole from the same location. Photos by Liam McGranaghan.